

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 057965

44

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTP-02 FCC-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 CG-00 DODE-00

FMC-04 /063 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ TD: AEFRANK: SP

3/29/73 EXT. 22592

APPROVED BY EB/ TD: TENELSON

EB/ MA - MR. STEINMETZ

EUR/ WE - MR. BEIGEL

----- 056439

R 291902 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 057965

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, FR

SUBJECT: MARSAT- COMSAT CONTRACT WITH U. S. NAVY.

REF: PARIS 8681

1. QUOTED BELOW IN PARA 2 IS A STATEMENT CONCERNING
COMSAT NAVY CONTRACT WHICH EMBASSY PARIS MAY USE IN
DISCUSSING THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH GOF OFFICIALS AND OTHERS.
THIS STATEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED AT IMCO
MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING NOW UNDERWAY IN LONDON.

2. " THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE CORPORATION (COMSAT),
A PRIVATE U. S. ENTITY, HAS BEEN AWARDED A U. S. NAVY
CONTRACT TO PROVIDE A FLEET INTERIM SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE IN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC
OCEANS BEGINNING IN 1974 AND EXTENDING UNTIL
1976 WITH THE POSSIBILITY THIS COULD BE EXTENDED
ONE YEAR OR LONGER. THE SYSTEM WOULD CONSIST
OF TWO SATELLITES IN GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, ONE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 057965

OVER THE ATLANTIC AND ONE OVER THE PACIFIC OCEANS.
THE CHANNELS TO BE PROVIDED WILL BE IN THE
240-400 MHZ FREQUENCY BAND.

COMSAT, ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, IS PROPOSING TO
PROVIDE SOME ADDITIONAL LIMITED CAPACITY
ON THESE SATELLITES TO OPERATE IN THE L- BAND AND
C- BAND TO SERVE COMMERCIAL USERS. THIS WOULD BE A

PRIVATE UNDERTAKING BY COMSAT, ENTIRELY AT THE
COMPANY'S OWN FINANCIAL RISK.

IN ITS FORMAL APPLICATION TO THE UNITED STATES
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR AUTHORITY
TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THIS SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY, COMSAT STATED WITH RESPECT
TO THE EXCESS CAPACITY PORTION OF ITS PROPOSAL,
THAT IS THE L- BAND AND C- BAND, ALONG THE FOLLOWING
LINES:

' IN PROPOSING TO PROVIDE COMMERCIAL MARITIME
SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES,
COMSAT IS MINDFUL OF THE EFFORTS UNDER WAY
TOWARD LONG- TERM POLICY DECISIONS REGARDING
MARITIME SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS. A NUMBER
OF COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO THE UNITED STATES
ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED, THROUGH IMCO, INTELSAT
AND OTHER CHANNELS, IN DISCUSSING THE
ALTERNATIVES AND FORMULATING THEIR POSITIONS.
A WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE TO
DEAL WITH MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS IS TO TAKE
PLACE IN 1974. CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS TO BE HELD AS EARLY
AS 1974, IN ORDER TO PROCEED TOWARD AGREEMENT
ON APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
AN INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SATELLITE SERVICE.
INTELSAT IS UNDERTAKING STUDIES TO DETERMINE
THE DESIRABILITY OF INCLUDING A MARITIME
CAPABILITY IN AN INTELSAT V SATELLITE, WHICH
COULD BE REQUIRED SOME TIME IN 1978 OR 1979.
COMSAT'S PROPOSAL DOES NOT IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE
THE OUTCOME OF THESE LONG RANGE EFFORTS. TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 057965

THE CONTRARY, NOT ONLY WILL COMSAT'S PROPOSED

SYSTEM MAKE SERVICE AVAILABLE IN AN EARLIER
TIMEFRAME THAN IS OTHERWISE POSSIBLE IN THESE
OTHER CONTEXTS, BUT IT ALSO OFFERS A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPERIMENTATION WITH EQUIPMENT
AND SERVICES THAT COULD SERVE TO GREATLY
BENEFIT ANY EVENTUAL MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM.'

WITH RESPECT TO THE TIMEFRAME WITHIN WHICH THESE
SATELLITES WILL OPERATE, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT
THE SATELLITES WILL BE DEPLOYED IN 1974 AND WILL
HAVE A FIVE YEAR LIFETIME DESIGN. THEIR USEFULNESS
WOULD END, THEREFORE, IN THE LATE 1970'S, WHICH IS
ABOUT THE SAME TIME THAT PRESENT TIMETABLES ENVISAGE
THE POSSIBLE BEGINNING OF A LARGE- SCALE MARITIME
SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY." ROGERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE057965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AEFRANK: SP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730341/aaaailgu.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PARIS 8681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980107
Subject: MARSAT- COMSAT CONTRACT WITH U. S. NAVY.
TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, FR
To: PARIS INFO LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005